Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01250 030935Z

11
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EUR-25 AF-10

DRC-01 /159 W
---------- 022926
P R 030857Z NOV 73
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4653
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1250

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, JO, IS
SUBJ: ATTITUDE OF WEST BANKERS TOWARD POLITICAL FUTURE

SUMMARY. RENEWED POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL SOLUTION TO PALES-
TINIAN QUESTION HAS PROVOKED RENEWED DISCUSSION OF DIVERSE IDEAS
AMONG WEST BANKERS, BUT THERE IS NO CONSENSUS AND NONE SEEMS
LIKELY TO EMERGE. WE DISCERN MORE WIDESPREAD RELUCTANCE TO
RETURN TO JORDANIAN RULE BUT OTHERWISE LITTLE CHANGE IN BASIC
VIEWS THAT HAVE PREVAILED AMONG THE POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS
THROUGHOUT PERIOD OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THREE PRINCIPAL POSSI-
BILITIES ADVOCATED ARE RETURN TO JORDANIAN CONTROL, INDEPENDENT
PALESTINIAN STATE, AND SOME SORT OF SEMI-AUTONOMOUS STATUS WITHIN
KINGDOM OF JORDAN. AMONG THOSE WHO OPPOSE JORDANIAN CONTROL BUT
RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS OF INDEPENDENT ENTITY, THERE IS SOME TALK
OF UN TRUSTEESHIP FOLLOWED BY PLEBISCITE. END SUMMARY.

1. WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH HAVE LED POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS WEST
BANKERS TO GIVE RENEWED ATTENTION TO QUESTION OF THEIR POLITICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01250 030935Z

FUTURE. WHILE THEY ARE DISCUSSING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES AMONG

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THEMSELVES, OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NO NEARER CONSENSUS THAN IN PAST. WE HAVE IMPRESSION GREAT BULK OF WEST BANK POPULATION REMAINS BASICALLY PASSIVE, NOT KNOWING JUST WHAT IT WANTS (EXCEPT END OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION) AND WAITING TO SEE WHAT WILL DEVELOP. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE OF MORE WIDESPREAD RELUCTANCE TO RETURN TO GOJ RULE OF PRE-1967 TYPE, PARTICULARLY AMONG WORKING CLASS MAJORITY OF POPULATION WHICH NOT ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO POSITION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFERIORITY IN FEUDALISTIC JORDANIAN SOCIETY THAT IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE IN MANY RESPECTS UNDER OCCUPATION.

2. RETURN TO JORDANIAN CONTROL IS, OF COURSE, FAVORED BY LANDED OLIGARCHS AND FORMER JORDANIAN OFFICIALS WHO, INTER ALIA, PRESUMABLY FEAR ANY OTHER SOLUTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE THEIR PRIVILEGED STATUS. THEY WANT PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS" PROTECTED IN PEACE SETTLEMENT, BUT LOOK TO GOJ RATHER THAN ANY DISTINCT PALESTINIAN GROUP TO REPRESENT PALESTINIAN INTERESTS IN NEGOTIATIONS. THESE PRO-HASHEMITES FORM THE ONLY REALLY COHESIVE BODY OF OPINION ON WEST BANK.

3. THERE ARE NUMBER OF ADVOCATES OF SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE, BUT THIS PROPOSITION TENDS TO BE PUT FORWARD MAINLY AS ALTERNATIVE TO JORDANIAN CONTROL BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE LATTER, AND LITTLE THOUGHT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN EVEN NOW TO DETAILS OF SUCH PROPOSAL. ADVOCATES INCLUDE MANY MEMBERS OF WEST BANK INTELLIGENCIA AND PROFESSIONAL CLASS, AS WELL AS TRONG NATIONALISTS, SUCH AS JAMIL HAMAD, EDITOR OF LOCAL ARABIC WEEKLY AL FAJR, WHO FEAR REPRISALS IF HUSSEIN REGAINS CONTROL OF WEST BANK. THEY ARE ANXIOUS FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACE TALKS BUT FEAR THEY WILL BE IGNORED. DESPIET CONCERN AND FRUSTRATION OVER THIS SITUATION, THEY CONCEDE WHEN QUERIED THAT THEY HAVE NO ANSWER TO QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE SUCH PARTICIPATION.

4. AMONG THOSE WHO OPPOSE HASHEMITE RULE BUT RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD FACE AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINE AND THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF ACCESS TO JORDAN (AND ISRAEL), BEST SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS STATUS WITH SOME TIE TO JORDAN. CERTAIN POLITICIANS, SUCH AS HEBRON'S SHEIKH JA'ABARI, WHO APPEAR TO HAVE KEPT TIES WITH HUSSEIN WHILE WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH ISRAELIS, HAVE SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF THIS ALTERNATIVE IN PAST. FOR PRESENT, CONFIDENTIAL

HOWEVER, THEY SEEM TO BE KEEPING OWN COUNSEL, NOT COMMITING THEMSELVES TO SPECIFIC COURSE. AS WITH INDEPENDENT STATE, DISCUSSION OF THIS IDEA TENDS TO BE IN GENERALITIES.

5. IDEA OF PLEBISCITE, POSSIBLY PRECEDED BY UN TRUSTEESHIP FOR PERIOD OF 5 YEARS OR SO, HAS ALSO ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT. NOT A NEW IDEA ON WEST BANK, IT TENDS TO BE HELD BY PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE WEST BANKERS WILL DECIDE FOR SEPARATE ENTITY. WE HAVE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IMPRESSION ALSO THAT, WITH TIME FOR DECISION APPARENTLY CLOSER
AT HAND, THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOJ RULE BUT SEE THE DIFFICULTIES
OF INDEPENDENCE TURN TO THIS TYPE OF INTERIM SOLUTION AS MEANS
OF BUYING TIME TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE.
DAY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JERUSA01250
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731156/aaaabpct.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTITUDE OF WEST BANKERS TOWARD POLITICAL FUTURE
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, JO, IS
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005